Speldhurst CEP School

Spring 2023

PTA NEWSLETTER

Dear Speldhurst Parents

Chair's Summary

Dear Parents,

Wow, this term has flown by...suddenly, it's time for our Spring newsletter, even though the weather is still firmly stuck in Winter!

Whilst the past couple of months haven't been too busy in terms of PTA events, we have been squirreling away behind the scenes, working hard with our planning for the remainder of 2023 (and beyond!).

This year is a big one for us and the school - hopefully, we will be receiving news about whether the exciting school kitchen project will be going ahead any day now. If we get the green light, we have a VERY big fundraising target to hit! We will let you know the details and figures as soon as we know but we are confident that, with our fantastic PTA team and support from all the Speldhurst school families, we can achieve it.

Two highlights of this term for us have been the Lego competition and the Online Auction - every year we are amazed at how tense it gets in the final moments! Spare a thought for Mr McCheyne who is off to Lincolnshire to teach a 1:1 music lesson with the winner of his lot (well worth the £120 though!)...

It's wonderful that we will soon to be able to see the fruits of our fundraising efforts with the building of the new SEN space. The PTA was able to provide the school with £15,000 towards this project.

We were hoping to end the term with a magnificent Mini Marathon but rain sadly stopped play. We are looking forward to the rescheduled date of Friday 21st April though! Plus it givesus all even more time to work on those sponsorship forms! It's going to be a busy term with lots of events, including the new Wine Tasting and Cheese evening...we've already cleared our diaries for the next day to allow recovery time!

We wish you all a wonderful Easter break!

Sean, Becky and Kelly

Exciting PTA Events & Dates for the Diary 2023

Mini Marathon
Friday 21st April
Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
Friday 21st April
Galaxy Gala Cake Sale
Friday 28th April
Wine Tasting and Cheese Evening
Friday 28th April
Duarte Concert in the Village Hall
Sunday 30th April (2-3pm)
Coronation Celebration Dress Up Day
Friday 5th May
Jazz Class Cake Sale
Friday 12th May
Family Fun Day
Saturday 20th May
Pippin Cake Sale
Friday 23rd June
Coco Bongo Summer Social
Friday 30th June
Sports Day Cafe
Friday 7th July
KS1 & KS2 Summer Discos
Friday 14th July

Dates for Autumn Term to be confirmed soon, including Quiz Night, Fireworks and a Danceathon!

Class Reps

Our Class Reps continue to do a fantastic job of supporting both the PTA and the families in their classes. There's never a quiet moment on our Class Reps WhatsApp group and they all somehow still manage to keep on top of all the reminders and important info. The next Class Reps meeting will take place in May - more details to follow soon.

Pippin - Alice Faulkner & Mike Harrowing
Jazz - Ellen Rowley & Kelly Christmas
Galaxy Gala - Laura-Jayne Healey & Sam Marken
Bramley - Antonia Harrowing, Ashleigh Ethelston & Bee Pruttivarasin
Empire - Erika Banfield & Sophie Rock
Crispin - Camilla Fleetham, Olivia Lewis & Sarah Ward
Russet - Jenny Cooper & Megan Fradgley

PTA FUNDRAISING 2023

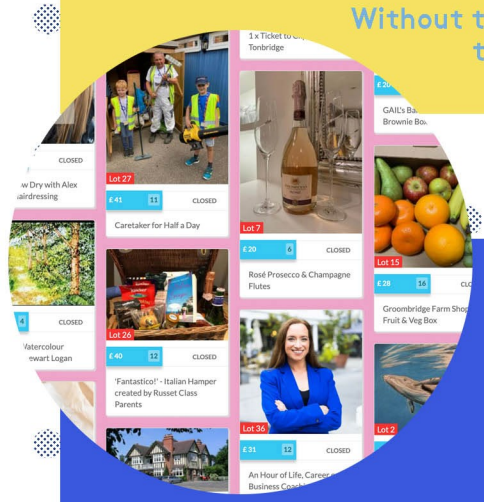
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Thank You!

WOW!!

It won't be a surprise for you to hear that, with limited budgets and the current financial pressures surrounding us all, the funding the PTA provides the school is more important than ever. We are therefore so incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and active PTA committee, and to have such fantastic support from you as parents.

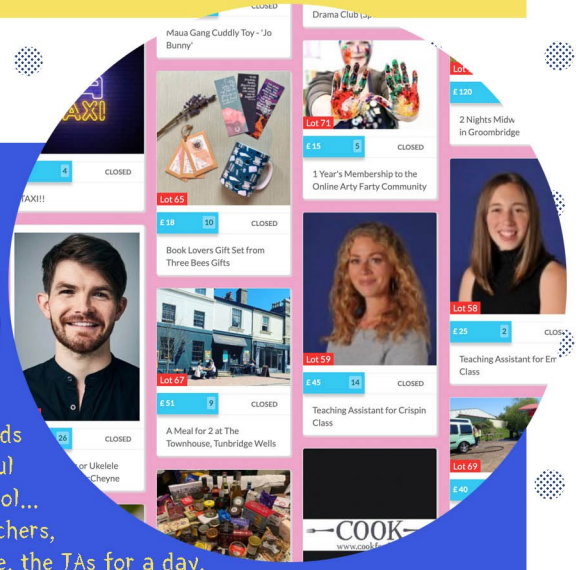
Without the funding the PTA provides, the school would not be able to provide children with much needed equipment, resources and opportunities.



Online Auction

£3000

was raised



The online auction always has us glued to our phone screens for a week, watching the bids rise and competition heat up! This year was no exception and, thanks to all the wonderful support from local businesses and families, we were able to raise over £3000 for a school... a fantastic result! Hotly contested lots included the whole lamb from Southborough Butchers, glamping in Groombridge, half a day's home organisation, a meal for 2 at The Townhouse, the TAs for a day, the class hampers, and, of course, the music lesson with Mr McCheyne, which jumped up to £120 at the very last second! Well done to Pippin class for raising the most money with their Mexican-themed hamper... someone out there is no doubt having a lot of fun working through it!



Tristan



Jasper



Mabel

Lego Competition

Our Lego Competition is fast becoming a favourite fixture of ours in the PTA calendar! It's such a joy to see all of the creative builds and designs the children come up with each year. This year we had over 50 truly fantastic entries, with everything from erupting volcanoes to dancing Groots! Mr Howe's job of judging was made very tricky indeed but, in the end, there were 5 very worthy winners:



Kingsley



William

Overall Winner & Speldhurst School Lego Master 2023 - Jasper Pollen (D-Day)
KS1 Winner - Tristan Bailey (Rusthall FC scene)
KS1 Runner-Up - Kingsley Quirk (International Search & Rescue Centre)
KS2 Winner - Mabel Harrowing (Epic Lego Home)
KS2 Runner-Up - William Brennan (A Knight's Castle)

PTA FUNDRAISING 2023

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Mini Marathon



The Mini Marathon will now take place on **Friday 21st April.**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Mini Marathon sponsorship forms so far.

Just a reminder that these need to be back in by the **19th April.**

You can return your form in an envelope with the sponsorship cash or just return your form and send a bank transfer.

It's really important that you send the forms in so that we can claim the Gift Aid...it makes all the difference!



Spring Music Recital

The PTA were delighted to be able to provide teas, coffees and hot cross buns to parents at the school's Spring Music Recital. It was so wonderful to see such a stunning showcase of Speldhurst School talent - all the children did so well!



A special thank you to the wonderful Chloe Sammons from Chloé Kingham Photography for taking photos for parents on behalf of the PTA and thank you to the parents who have kindly made donations to us in exchange for receiving their images.

School Kitchen Fundraising

With the donation for the SEN space now made (see next page), our efforts return to our big fundraising target for the new school kitchen. This week, we were very lucky to have been given a cheque for **£500** from the South East Water Community fund towards our fundraising efforts. This was given to our PTA Chair by the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP in an awards ceremony at the Trinity Arts Theatre.

This brings our current total of funds to **£7100**. Still a long way to go but we can do it!! If you have any ideas for new fundraisers, please do get in touch.

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PTA SPENDING 2023

Thank You!

WOW!

In the past term, the PTA has raised over £3000

Thanks to your generosity, the PTA have been able to contribute a huge

£15,000

towards the new

SEN SPACE

"The SEN Hub is a vital element in the school's efforts to meet the needs of all pupils, in particular the most vulnerable. Currently, the space inside the school is used to capacity. At times, children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Ukrainian pupils requiring intensive, one-to-one and group support and children with gaps following successive Covid lockdowns, have to be taught on tables in the corridor. This situation is far from ideal; the corridor is busy with constant disruptions which make it hard for children to concentrate. Ask any member of staff and they will be likely to say that what the school needs most is space to meet the needs of children facing these challenges.



The plan is to build a 'home office' type building as an SEN base. It will have 2 rooms, one where support staff can work with individuals and small groups and a second, smaller room where the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, and outside specialist teachers, can assess pupils and provide the individual support they need to address delays to their learning. Children with challenging behaviour would also be able to access the space as a calming area conducive to regulating their emotions. There is a compelling need for such a space for all of these reasons.

Planning permission has been granted and the tendering process is complete. The successful company quoted £32,500 to complete the build and the PTA generously offered to make a donation of £7,000 towards the project. The remainder of the funding would come from the school budget. However, unlike a domestic office, Speldhurst School is a public building, and any project on the site is therefore subject to building regulations. This added an additional £13,029 to the cost of the build, which is now expected to come in at £45,529. At this point, it looked as though the project may have to be shelved. Fortunately, the PTA came to the rescue, donating a further £8,000, making a grand total of £15,000.

As a result of parents' generosity, the project can now go ahead, with building work due to start on 3rd April, and a projected completion date 8-10 weeks later. Without the PTA this would not have been possible and we would like to thank all of those involved in fundraising for the school."

Stephanie Hayward

We have also spent...

£320
Keyboard Stands

Plus

£100
Second-hand stage for the Arts Space

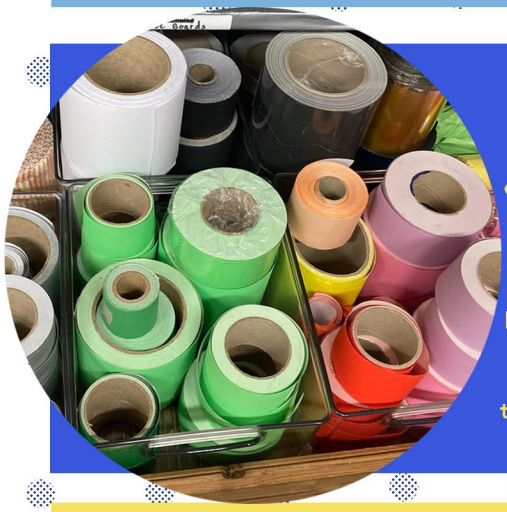
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OTHER NEWS 2023

Arts Space

Whilst other projects are taking priority, we currently have no budget to spend on transforming the old ICT suite into the school's Arts Space...but this hasn't stopped us making a few changes which we hope will make a big difference! Both the school and PTA have been working hard to clear out the room, in order to allow it to be used for music lessons and performances. This includes removing shelves, old desks and cupboards from the room, and refreshing the display boards (Mrs Smith is doing a great job on these!). The PTA have been able to make a small donation towards the project by purchasing 16 keyboard stands (which can be folded up and stored away to save space) and purchasing a second-hand stage to allow the children to give performances! Once budgets allow, we have great plans to turn this room into a stunning and exciting new space!





The Tailored Home

Whilst we were all enjoying the February half-term, the school's Art Supplies Store Room was treated to a bit of a mini-makeover, courtesy of the lovely Lizzie from The Tailored Home UK. Lizzie very kindly gave up a day of her time to help organise this space and create more storage room as part of our wider PTA project to clear out the clutter in the new Arts Space. The teachers are now under strict instruction from Mr Steibelt to keep it this tidy - spot checks will be taking place! To find out more about Lizzie's offerings, please visit www.thetailoredhomeuk.co.uk.



School Library

It's so wonderful to have our beautiful Orchard Library back in regular use thanks to our wonderful Library team. Special thanks go to Deviani Parekh-Jones and Emma Morris for their help in making this happen. We now have a different year group visiting each Monday afternoon. There is still plenty of work to do to help keep on top of labelling and organising books and more so if you feel you could spare an hour or two to help out at any point, please contact Emma via the PTA email address.



Pre-Loved Uniform

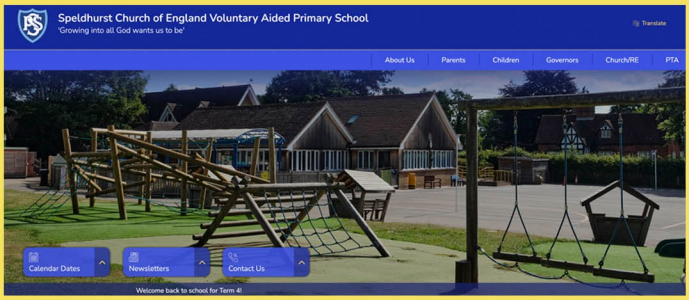
Next Sale Fri 21st April 3-3.30pm

The Pre-Loved Uniform team will be back with a second hand sale the first Friday back after Easter on Friday 21st April where you can stock up with your Summer Uniform! Unfortunatelywe haven't been very active with email sales as we are unable to access the uniform regularly - we are currently hunting for a new home!

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PTA Section of School Website

We have slowly but surely been taking time to update the PTA section of our school website. We recently uploaded photos from last year's events and fundraising activities - please do check them out when you have a moment!



OTHER NEWS

Do you follow us on Facebook?
If not, head to
'Speldhurst Primary School PTA'
to get regular updates from us!

Get Involved!

How you can help the PTA…

There are so many different ways in which you can help and support the PTA…it does not have to be a big commitment (we promise!). Each and every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when joining the school. The PTA committee are those that are elected at the Annual General Meeting to represent all parents. Each committee member has the ability to vote on PTA spending and activity. The committee meet every couple of months to discuss ideas and plans for the coming period. New faces and suggestions for what we can do to better support the school are always very welcome!

PTA AGM Update:

We would like to thank everyone who took time out to attend the PTA AGM at the end of January, including Mrs Hayward and the teaching team. It was a joy to meet in person after 2 years on Zoom and to be able to celebrate the successes of the past year, whilst looking ahead to the exciting events and school projects we have planned for 2023.

During the meeting, the following were voted in for the coming year:

Chair - Sean Willis
Joint Vice Chairs - Kelly Kyte & Rebecca Willis
Treasurer - Steph Elliston
Secretary - Lucy Greenidge

Committee Members:
Charlotte Williams
Chloe Sammons
Deviani Parekh-Jones
Kelly Christmas
Sarah Taylor
Stephanie Potter

The full meeting minutes, Chair's report & financial report are now available to view in the PTA section of the school website.



Fundraising by online shopping!

If you need new nametags for the start of term, remember we have a fundraising account for the PTA with **www.mynametags.com**

For each order placed with them, they will donate 24% of the order amount back to the PTA. When you place an order please place the following school ID: 36894

You can help us raise valuable funds today by shopping online through our very own shopping portal - and you won't spend any more than going to the retailer's website directly. Simply click below and start shopping!
http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/speldhurstpta/?t=Easyfundraising-lo&v=a

PTA Committee Members & Contact Details:

If you would like to contact us, the PTA email address is **speldhurstpta@gmail.com**, or feel free to chat to any of us if you see us around school…we're a friendly bunch!

Chair: Sean Willis
Joint Vice Chairs: Becky Willis & Kelly Kyte
Treasurer: Steph Elliston
Secretary: Lucy Greenidge
Committee Members:
Charlotte Williams, Chloe Sammons, Deviani Parekh-Jones, Kelly Christmas, Stephanie Potter, Sarah Taylor.